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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method in a data processing system for detecting monitoring of access to content, the method comprising the data processing system implemented steps of:
- requesting content from a source using an identifier;
- 10 sending a set of identifiers used to reach the content to a validation service; and
- responsive to a response from the validation service indicating monitoring of access to content, selectively preventing receipt of content from the source.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the source is a Web server.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the content is a web page.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the validation service is located on a server.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of
- 25 selectively preventing receipt of content from the source comprises:
- presenting an indication of monitoring by the source;
- responsive to receiving user input indicating that
- 30 receipt of content from the source should be prevented, preventing receipt of content from the source.

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6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of preventing receipt of content from the source comprises:
including an identification of the source in a
5 service used to prevent receipt of content from identified sources.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifier is a universal resource locator.

8. A method in a data processing system for detecting monitoring of access to content, the method comprising the data processing system implemented steps of:
receiving a request from a requestor to determine
15 whether a source is monitoring access by the requestor, wherein the request includes a set of identifiers used to access selected content;

sending the request to the source using the set of identifiers;

20 receiving a response from the source, wherein the response includes an identifier;

comparing the set of identifiers to the identifier;
and

25 generating a response indicating monitoring of the requestor by the source in response to an absence of a match between the identifier and any identifier in the set of identifiers.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising sending the
30 response to the requestor.

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10. The method of claim 8, wherein the source is a Web server.

a 5 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the content is a Web page.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the identifier is a universal resource locator.

10 13. The method of claim 8, wherein the set of identifiers are in an order used to reach the selected content and wherein the sending, receiving, and comparing steps are performed for each of the identifiers within the set of identifiers.

15 14. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of generating the response comprises:
placing an identification of the source in the response.

20 15. The method of claim 8, wherein the identification of the source is a domain name for the source.

25 16. A browser program for use in a data processing system, the browser program comprising:
a communications interface, wherein the communications interface receives content from a network;
a graphical user interface used to display content;
a language interpretation unit, wherein the language
30 interpretation unit processes content received by the communications interface for display on the graphical

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user interface; and

a detection unit, wherein the detection unit requests content from a source using an identifier, sends a set of identifiers used to reach the content to a validation service, selectively prevents receipt of content from the source in response to a response from the validation service indicating monitoring of access to content.

10 17. The browser program of claim 16, wherein the language interpretation unit interprets hypertext markup language statements.

15 18. The browser program of claim 16, wherein the language interpretation unit interprets JavaScript.

19. A data processing system comprising:
a bus;
a communications interface connected to the bus,
20 wherein the communications interface is configured for connection to a network;
a processing unit connected to the bus, wherein the processing unit executes instructions; and
a memory connected to the bus, wherein the memory
25 includes instructions used to request content from a source using an identifier, send a set of identifiers used to reach the content to a validation service, and selectively prevent receipt of content from the source in response to a response from the validation service
30 indicating monitoring of access to content.

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20. The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the communications interface is one of a network adapter and a modem.

5 21. A data processing system comprising:

a bus;

a communications interface connected to the bus, wherein the communications interface is configured for connection to a network;

10 a processing unit connected to the bus, wherein the processing unit executes instructions; and

a memory connected to the bus, wherein the memory includes instructions used to receive a request from a requestor to determine whether a source is monitoring access by the requestor in which the request includes a set of identifiers used to access selected content, send request to the source using the set of identifiers, receive a response from the source in which the response includes an identifier, compare the set of identifiers to the identifier, and generate a response indicating monitoring of the requestor by the source in response to an absence of match between the identifier and any identifier in the set of identifiers.

25 22. A data processing system for detecting monitoring of access to content, the data processing system comprising:

requesting means for requesting content from a source using an identifier;

sending means for sending a set of identifiers used to reach the content to a validation service; and

preventing means responsive to a response from the

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validation service indicating monitoring of access to content, for selectively preventing receipt of content from the source.

a 5 23. The data processing system of claim 22, wherein the source is a Web server.

24. The data processing system of claim 22, wherein the content is a web page.

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25. The data processing system of claim 22, wherein the validation service is located on a server.

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26. The data processing system of claim 22, wherein the preventing means comprises:

presenting means for presenting an indication of monitoring by the source;

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preventing means responsive to receiving user input indicating that receipt of content from the source should be prevented, for preventing receipt of content from the source.

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27. The data processing system of claim 26, wherein the preventing means comprises:

including means for including an identification of the source in a service used to prevent receipt of content from identified sources.

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28. The data processing system of claim 22, wherein the identifier is a universal resource locator.

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29. A data processing system for detecting monitoring of access to content, the data processing system comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request from a requestor to determine whether a source is monitoring access by the requestor, wherein the request includes a set of identifiers used to access selected content;

sending means for sending the request to the source using the set of identifiers;

receiving means for receiving a response from the source, wherein the response includes an identifier;

comparing means for comparing the set of identifiers to the identifier; and

generating means for generating a response indicating monitoring of the requestor by the source in response to an absence of a match between the identifier and any identifier in the set of identifiers.

30. The data processing system of claim 29 further comprising sending the response to the requestor.

31. The data processing system of claim 29, wherein the source is a Web server.

32. The data processing system of claim 29, wherein the content is a Web page.

33. The data processing system of claim 29, wherein the identifier is a universal resource locator.

34. The data processing system of claim 29, wherein the set of identifiers are in an order used to reach the

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selected content and wherein the sending, receiving, and comparing steps are performed for each of the identifiers within the set of identifiers.

- 5 35. The data processing system of claim 29, wherein the generating means comprises:

placing means for placing an identification of the source in the response.

- 10 36. The data processing system of claim 29, wherein the identification of the source is a domain name for the source.

- 15 37. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for detecting monitoring of access to content, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for requesting content from a source using an identifier;

- 20 second instructions for sending a set of identifiers used to reach the content to a validation service; and

third instructions, responsive to a response from the validation service indicating monitoring of access to content, for selectively preventing receipt of content from the source.

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38. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for detecting monitoring of access to content, the computer program product comprising:

- 30 first instructions for receiving a request from a requestor to determine whether a source is monitoring access by the requestor, wherein the request includes a

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    second instructions for sending the request to the
source using the set of identifiers;

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fourth instructions for comparing the set of
identifiers to the identifier, and

fifth instructions for generating a response indicating monitoring of the requestor by the source in response to an absence of a match between the identifier and any identifier in the set of identifiers.